



Correspondence: P.O. Box 50004, #15 – 1594 Fairfield Road, Victoria BC V8S 1G1
 Telephone: (250) 598-8870 Fax: (250) 598-8811

E-mail oldcem@pacificcoast.net

Web Site: <http://www.oldcem.bc.ca>

July-August 2011

Ross Bay Cemetery Summer Walking Tours alternate between the following two popular presentations. Meet at 1:45pm, in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza.

On Sunday 31 July the **Obon Ceremony** (traditional Japanese Buddhist ceremony for the dead) will be conducted at the Kakehashi monument in the southwest corner of the cemetery. See below for dates and times of other Obon ceremonies on Vancouver island.

Gossip in the Graveyard is a lively tour about many scoundrels, characters and eccentrics at Ross Bay Cemetery you won't find in your history books!

Gold Rush! features stories about some of the colourful men and women buried at Ross Bay Cemetery who made history in the Fraser River Gold Rush of 1858 and other gold rushes. New stories every year.

Sunday 03 July Gossip in the Graveyard
 Sunday 10 July Gold Rush!
 Sunday 17 July Gossip in the Graveyard
 Sunday 24 July Gold Rush!

Sunday 31 Jul Obon Ceremony
 Sunday 07 Aug Gossip in the Graveyard
 Sunday 14 Aug Gossip in the Graveyard
 Sunday 21 Aug Gold Rush!
 Sunday 28 Aug Gold Rush!

Do you have any ideas for Sunday tours or excursions? We're always on the lookout for new subjects. Phone 250-598-8870 or e-mail oldcem@pacificcoast.net

Vancouver Island Obon Ceremonies

Ceremonies will be conducted by Grant Masami Ikuta, Vancouver born Buddhist priest.

Nanaimo – Saturday July 30, 10:30 a.m., residence of Mr. Makoto Fukui

Cumberland- Saturday July 30, 2:30 p.m., Cumberland Cemetery

Port Alberni- Saturday July 30, 5:30 p.m., Port Alberni Cemetery

Chemainus- Sunday July 31, 9:30 a.m., Chemainus Cemetery

Duncan- Sunday July 31, 11:00 a.m., Duncan Cemetery

Victoria- Sunday July 31, 2:00 p.m., Ross Bay Cemetery

Have you visited our new office at Ross Bay Villa yet?

Here are some of the things you will find there:

A searchable database for finding and researching burials at Ross Bay Cemetery.

A library containing lots of books, some for research and some for loan.

An extensive collection of "family files" of people buried at Ross Bay Cemetery

A large collection of information on other Greater Victoria cemeteries

Our recording project books and a collection of photos taken over the past twenty years.

The office is open Monday and Thursday, 10am to 1pm.

Canada Day Lawn Party

Canada Day was a beautiful, sunny day at Ross Bay Villa, and a great day for a lawn party. TLC had a successful event in which they proudly showed off the results of their hard work. The Villa is now nearing completion and further occupation. Thanks to Linda Richards for manning an information table for the society and fielding many inquiries.

The OCS Pot Luck Garden Party will be held on **Tuesday July 12** in the garden at **Ross Bay Villa** from **6:30 p.m to 9:00 p.m.**

Please join us for a social evening with members old and new.

RSVP by July 7, 2011 Email oldcem@pacificcoast.net or ph.250-598-8870

Please indicate what culinary delight you will bring, and if you can , bring a folding lawn chair as seating is limited.

Volunteer Editor for "Stories in Stone"

We are still looking for a volunteer editor for "Stories in Stone", the Old Cemeteries Society journal which we publish twice a year. If you are interested in writing, collecting interesting stories about cemeteries and the people buried there, or have always wanted to be published, you need to talk to Wilf Bruch about this once in a lifetime opportunity. Call him at 250 383-7514 or e-mail wbruch@shaw.ca

Pioneer Square Planning Project

The City of Victoria has embarked on a planning project to aid in the development of a ten-year management plan for Pioneer Square (Old Quadra Street Burying Ground). An advisory committee includes representatives from Victoria heritage planning, Victoria Police Department, Downtown Business Association, Hallmark Society, Old Cemeteries Society (Don Reksten), Canadian Scottish Regiment, Christ Church Cathedral, Fairfield Gonzales Community Association, and Downtown Residents Association.

The community was invited to drop by an open house on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at Christ Church Cathedral to view displays, meet with Parks planning staff, ask questions, and complete a short survey.

Display panels will be available for viewing until Friday, July 8 at the Parks office in Beacon Hill Park. Surveys can be submitted up to July 8. To arrange an appointment, please call 250.361.0600 on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., or e-mail the parks division at city hall. The public will be invited to a second open house in the fall where draft recommendations will be available for feedback.

We urge all OCS members to get informed and complete the survey/questionnaire. Have a look at the OCS website for lots of information about Pioneer Square/Old Burying Ground and view the information provided by the City of Victoria at <http://www.victoria.ca/cityhall/comparprkimp-consult-pioneer-square.shtml>

Thrifty Foods Smile Card Fundraising Program

The Old Cemeteries Society has been approved again for participation on the Thrifty Foods Smile Card Fundraising Program from June 2011 to May 2012. Funds raised will be used for the Ross Bay Cemetery Row Marker Project.

To participate contact the OCS office at oldcem@pacificcoast.net or phone (250) 598-8870 to receive a participant's card and further information on how to use it.

Cleaning and Restoration

This summer our cleaning and restoration priority at Ross Bay Cemetery is painting. There are 54 iron and pipe fences and gates in RBC. Each is in need of attention and if not protected now will require extensive restoration in the future. By sanding and painting them now we will add many, many years to their life. As I write this, volunteers have completed 7 of the most difficult fences and 10 smaller ones. We are not quite halfway but with good weather and a few more painters, we will succeed! Our painting project hasn't stopped our cleaning volunteers who are working in section F, and Rex is power washing curbing in section P. We are making a difference!



Cleaning.....



Painting.....



Resting!

Historical Cemetery Photos

This interesting old photo was donated to the OCS recently and shows the entrance to Ross Bay Cemetery in 1921 across from Ross Bay Villa. Note there are no trees on the left side of the photo. Next time you are at the cemetery, check out the size of the chestnut tree now growing there!

We are always on the lookout for old photos of Ross Bay Cemetery and encourage everyone to donate copies for our archives.



Ross Bay Cemetery 1921

Rededication of the John McLean Stone Linda Richards

On May 28th, 2011, the family of John McLean came together with a number of representatives from local societies, politicians and the Hudson's Bay Company to honour and re-dedicate the stone of a fascinating Canadian pioneer. John McLean was born in Scotland and joined the H.B.C. in 1820. In 1838 he became the first white man to cross overland from Ungava Bay to Esquimaux Bay, (now called Hamilton Inlet) and in 1839 he discovered the falls on the Hamilton River. For a while they were named the McLean Falls but in 1965 they were re-named the Churchill Falls.

After retirement he held a number of positions, including grocery store manager, manager of a branch of the Bank of Montreal, commissioner under the Indian Protection Act and finally clerk of the Division Court of Ontario for 25 years. During his time as a bank manager in Guelph, Ontario, he wrote his famous book, *Notes of a Twenty-Five Years' Service in Hudson's Bay Territory*.

He re-located to Victoria in June of 1883 to live with his youngest daughter, Eugenia Sarah McLean, and died on March 8, 1890 and is buried in Plot H 72 E 25 in Ross Bay Cemetery. His stone reads *John McLean, Explorer Writer Nation-Builder*.



A Greener Way to Go Mike Beiling

The following is a brief article that preceded a discussion program on 89.1 KPCC Southern California Public Radio about Alkaline Hydrolysis, a proposed alternative to cremation that proponents argue is "greener" in terms of energy use and incinerator emissions. Apart from a certain "ick factor", indeed. Check the web site:

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/patt-morrison/2011/06/21/greem/>

Old Canadian Cemeteries: Places of Memory Mike Beiling

by Jane Irwin, photographs by John de Visser, 320 pp. (Firefly Books). It's a huge, heavily-bound, beautifully-photographed book with a brilliantly written text, an east-to-west survey of Canada's historic cemeteries (though overlooking MVC in Vancouver for some reason), really excellent on gravestone symbolism, the only downside being that it's too heavy to pack around cemeteries with you. It includes numerous references to and photos of Ross Bay Cemetery and mentions the OCS and AGS. Well worth the price of \$19.00 and a worthwhile addition to any taphophile library.

Dorothy Sweet sends greetings from Devon:

I did hear that new premises [Ross Bay Villa] have been made available – I will hope to come over and be given a guided tour but not this year! I am hoping to be able to plan another visit to Victoria perhaps next April and I am always saying it will be my last! However, I had such a lovely time last year and felt so well in BC that I really hope to come again. I keep very well and have just had a medical check-up. My best wishes to all my friends and I hope the cemetery research and Society are thriving.